

USA Comments – Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
March 2007 Report

CHAPTER 2 . 6 . 6 .

**AFRICAN SWINE
FEVER**

Article 2.6.6.1.

The pig is the only natural host for African swine fever (ASF) virus. The definition of pig includes all varieties of *Sus scrofa*, both domestic and wild, warthogs (*Phacochoerus spp.*), bushpigs (*Potamochoerus spp.*) and giant forest hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*). For the purposes of this chapter, a distinction is made between domestic pigs (permanently captive and farmed free-range pigs) and wild pigs (including feral pigs and wild boar) as well as between *Sus scrofa* and African pig species.

All varieties of *Sus scrofa* are susceptible to the pathogenic effects of ASF virus, while the African wildpigs are not and act as reservoirs of the infection. Ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros* are natural hosts of the virus and act as biological vectors of the infection.

For the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* in *Sus scrofa* is 15 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

General Comments:

1. end of first paragraph – for clarification we suggest adding the scientific names of a few African pig species
2. third paragraph – suggest also stating the period of infection as it could be important with strain of low virulence

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Article 2.6.6.6.

When importing from countries or zones with ASF infection in domestic pigs, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for domestic pigs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

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1. were isolated and kept in a quarantine station for at least 40 days prior to shipment ~~kept since birth or for the past 40 days in a ASF free compartment;~~
2. showed no clinical sign of ASF on the day of shipment
3. while in quarantine, were subjected to a virological test and a serological test performed at least 21 days prior to export with negative results.

Rationale: There is very little difference between the requirements outlined in Article 2.6.6.5 (importing domestic pigs from free countries or zones) and this Article (# 2.6.6.6), importing domestic pigs from infected countries or zones. Given the highly infectious nature of this disease agent, pigs originating from ASF infected areas should be tested negative prior to export.